

## **This Week in 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division History**

### **29 April-5 May**

by Ceilia M. Stratton

#### **WWI**

**1918** The 4<sup>th</sup> Engineers were the first troops of the Ivy Division to sail for France. The regiment embarked on 29 April at New York. For the remainder of the week, other units of the Division boarded. Few of the men had ever been to sea before. Their ships were painted with huge curves and stripes of black, white, and vivid colors causing most of the men to remark that “the camouflage man had had a nightmare”. The soldiers awaiting their embarkation dates, were allowed 24 hour passes to go into New York City.

#### **WWII**

**1945** The Division crossed the Lech River in force and continued to advance to the southeast crossing the Amper River on the 30<sup>th</sup>. During this two day period the Division captured over 3,000 prisoners of war. On 1 May the Division seized the bridges over the Loisach River intact, crossed the river, and advanced approximately 10 km before encountering heavy small arms, mortar, artillery, and AAA gunfire. By 2 May the resistance had broken and so many prisoners of war were taken that the forward advance of the Division was delayed while dealing with them. Augsburg was taken on 4 May. On 5 May the Division was relieved from the 7<sup>th</sup> US Army and assigned to III Corps, 3<sup>rd</sup> US Army. Preparations began to relocate to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army zone in the vicinity of Burglingenfeld.

#### **VN**

**1967** Ambushes and intense fighting characterized the contacts with the NVA during the early part of May. MG Peers, CG of the 4ID, and his Chief of Staff had developed specific tactics that were applied Division-wide, for the mission of the 4<sup>th</sup>. Company sized patrols were to be no more than 1 km or 1 hour’s march from any other patrolling company, so that any company that came under attack would have reinforcements located nearby.

**1968** Operation MacArthur concluded on 30 April. During the last week of April there were daily attacks on 4ID forward positions and patrols. On 29 April, the Company Commander of A Co, 1-12 Infantry, captured by the NVA the day prior, was able to escape his NVA captors when an artillery round wounded his captors. He made his way back to the 1-22 Inf FSB. On 5 May, the daily re-supply convoy (157 vehicles) was ambushed on Hwy 14N on the way to Kontum Province and the Special Forces Camp at Dak To. The attack began at 0930 and the 4<sup>th</sup> MPs V-100s raced to the point where the convoy had been stalled. Two Huey gunships from the 4<sup>th</sup> AVN came to the aid of the convoy but encountered heavy enemy fire. An ARVN M41 tank also came in to assist,

taking two rocket hits. The convoy commander called in artillery fire, then cancelled as more gunships arrived. Two of the convoy trucks carrying ammo, exploded. The wounded were loaded into the V-100s for evacuation to a “dust off” area out of the kill zone. The ambush ended at approx 1400 when an ARVN armored unit arrived on site. Altogether, a total of 28 US vehicles were destroyed and five gunships were hit by ground fire.

**1969** Beginning in mid April the Division intensified its operations in support of the Government of Vietnam’s Pacifications and Development Plan of 1969. They intensified their efforts against Viet Cong infrastructure, sapper units, and local force units.

**1970** The enemy began their “Spring Offensive” with numerous attacks against friendly installations, outposts, and fire bases. On 2-5 May all division forces were deployed closer to the Cambodian border in preparation for the major offensive against the NVA base areas in Cambodia.

## **OIF 1**

**2003** By the end of April all major units of the TF Ironhorse were at work in the Sunni Triangle. Day and night patrols, security checkpoints, and getting to know their AOs and the key people in it while building their new FOBs became the norm for all TF Ironhorse Soldiers. On 29 April 1-12 Inf captured a high ranking Fedayeen general. Diplomatic talks began with the Mujahedeen-e Khalq (MEK).